Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC MARCH 2006

ARISS Makes It Official: "Tremendously Successful" SuitSat-1 is SK

SuitSat-1 is now a confirmed "Silent Key." So says its sponsor, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. In operation for more than two weeks, SuitSat-1--designated AO-54--easily outlasted initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the mission captured imaginations around the world, despite a much-lower-than-expected signal strength.

"One great positive that came from these issues is that it challenged the ham radio community worldwide to improve their station receive capabilities so that they could pull every bit of signal from SuitSat,"

"The outreach, press requests and visibility of SuitSat were absolutely amazing and appear to be unprecedented for a ham radio event," Bauer said. "While the press requests are just now starting to wane, we expect that you will continue to see SuitSat status reports and pictures in magazines, Web sites and other literature over the next few months." The more than nine million hits at the SuitSat Web site attest to the level of interest in the SuitSat-1 experiment, Bauer noted, calling the tally "quite impressive indeed!"

Bob King, VE6BLD, in Alberta posted the last confirmed reception of SuitSat-1's voice audio, Saturday, February 18, at 0332 UTC. Richard Crow, N2SPI, in New York received the last confirmed telemetry, which indicated the battery voltage dropping precipitously to a low of 18.3 V before the novel satellite ceased to transmit.

Hearing SuitSat-1's puny signal strength generally required gain antennas, but Bauer says he heard SuitSat with a 3-element Arrow antenna and a handheld radio. Bauer's daughter Michelle recorded the English-language voice identification. Another challenge to signal reception, he said, was the very deep fading due to the suit's rotation in orbit.

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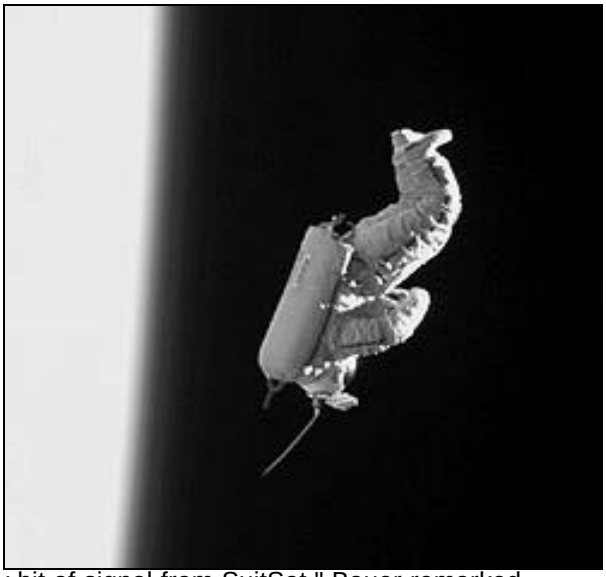

every bit of signal from SuitSat," Bauer remarked.

Bauer says reports that SuitSat-1 was non-operational and that the battery was frozen shortly after deployment are false. "This never occurred," he stressed. "As the telemetry has shown, temperatures within the suit were a somewhat comfortable 12-16 degrees C during the entire mission."

So, he adds, is the tale of SuitSat-1's early demise and resurrection. "It was alive and operated flawlessly, except the signal strength issue, from the time the crew flipped the switches until the battery power was used up," he

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THE ATLANTA HAM

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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment.

Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW. For pictures of that site, see http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 (Linked to 145.35 on FOX) at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS

WHEN:
Thursday MAR 2 , 2006 7:30PM

WHERE:
Red Cross 1955 Monroe Drive – Atlanta

PROGRAMTALK IN:
146.820 (-) PL 146.2

DINNER: The Picadilly Ansley Mall
Located 1/2 mile from Red Cross
On Monroe Drive

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P.O. BOX 720398
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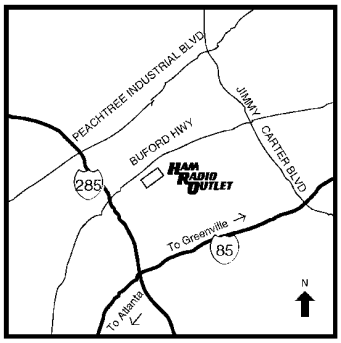

All the top brands of amateur radio equipment available!

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Hams help following mud slide (Feb 24, 2006)

Source: ARRL Letter

The RSGB reports that radio amateurs have helped coordinate rescue operations after a devastating mud slide on the Philippine island of Leyte buried an entire village February 17. More than 1800 people are thought to have died when the village of Guinsaugon, on the southern part of Leyte, was engulfed by mud following a week of torrential rain and a small earthquake. The International Radio Emergency Support Coalition (IRESC) has been supporting the relief effort by providing communication links between the disaster area and the International Red Cross. The IRESC specializes in connecting up traditional ham radio systems--HF transceivers and VHF/UHF repeaters--with Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology over EchoLink. The EchoLink net set up for the Leyte disaster reportedly went on the air within hours of the mudslide, and Philippine amateurs used it to pass lists of missing people and survivors generated by local evacuation centers. Other messages being passed from the stricken area have included requests for food, water, mats, clothing, stretchers, medical kits and digging tools. IRESC was forwarding all requests to the International Red Cross. At week's end, IRESC reported it was in stand-by mode and monitoring the EchoLink IRESC Conference. --*RSGB*

DXCC Desk approves operation for DXCC credit

DXCC Desk approves operation for DXCC credit: The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved this operation for DXCC credit: K7C (Kure Island), September 25-October 5, 2005. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>. "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" can answer most questions about the DXCC program. ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>.

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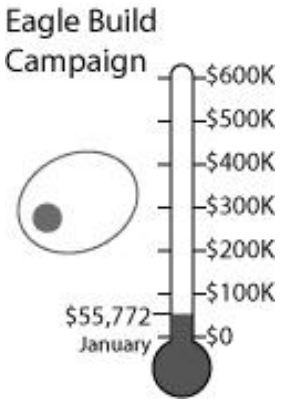
said.

Bauer says he's also not ready to buy into an AMSAT calculation that the transmitter may have been putting out between 1 and 10 mW. "It is entirely possible that the radio output could have been at 500 mW, and the feed line, connector or the antenna caused the problem," he said, adding that the SuitSat team has only just begun studying what might have caused the weak signal.

The AMSAT/ARISS team already is looking forward to a SuitSat-2. "Correcting the signal strength issue would be a top priority for this flight," Bauer said. "So would be a longer-term power generation device, like solar arrays."

Although no longer transmitting, SuitSat-1 could continue orbiting Earth for another 70 to 120 days, depending on atmospheric drag, Bauer said.

More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT Web site <http://www.amsat.org/> and on the SuitSat Web site <http://www.suitsat.org/>.



AMSAT OSCAR - Eagle is the next generation high earth orbit satellite under construction now! Eagle will provide many services and reliable communications on bands previously not available.

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

Athens, GA
1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm 2095 W. Broad Street.
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA
1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Gainesville, GA
1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Lilburn, GA
Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
4th Friday of Every Month at 7:00 pm
St. John Neumann Church 801 Tom Smith Rd
Contact: Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362
Headphones provided for CW tests.

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC
2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy.Contact: OTIS MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA
1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA
2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC
Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 8:30 am Stone Mountain United Methodist Church, 5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email:bvarone@juno.com

Atlanta, GA
4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm Georgia Tech
Visit http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html for more information and to sign up for a mailing list.
No pre-registration is required.
Email: w4aql-ve@cyberbuz.gatech.edu (emails preferred over phone calls)Phone: 404-894-2936

UPCOMING CONTESTS AND OP ACTIVITIES

February 13 - 17 School Club Roundup

February 18 - 19 ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

March 4 - 5 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)

June 10 - 12 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 24 - 25 ARRL Field Day

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

18 Mar 2006
53rd Annual Hamfest
Kennehoochee ARC
http://www.w4bti.org

26 April 2006
Calhoun Hamfest
Cherokee Capital ARS
http://www.qsl.net/k4woc
Talk-In: 146.805+ and 443.675 (PL 100)

13 May 2006
Heart of Georgia Hamfest
5 Central Georgia Amateur Radio Clubs
http://members.cox.net/cgarc/
Talk-In: 146.850 - 600

6-7 May 2006
Alabama State Convention (BirmingHAMfest 2006)
Birmingham Amateur Radio Club
http://www.w4cue.com
Talk-In: 146.28/88 (no tone)

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3Y0X DXpedition logs more than 87,000 contacts

3Y0X DXpedition logs more than 87,000 contacts (Feb 24, 2006) -- This month's 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I Island managed to put 87,034 contacts into its logbook during two weeks of operation before it shut down February 19 at 1813 UTC. The lucky last contact was with K8LTG. The 3Y0X DXpedition surpassed the 82,000 QSOs achieved by A52A (Bhutan), but it fell a bit short of the 96,000 contacts logged by K1B (Baker Island). The 22-member 3Y0X team, headed by led by Ralph Fedor, K0IR, and Bob Allphin, K4UEE, now is safely aboard its ship, the DAP *Mares* and plans a stop in the South Shetlands on the way home. Because of its remote location in the Bellinghausen Sea near Antarctica and the severe weather conditions, Peter I has been activated but rarely and remains one of the most-wanted DXCC entities. For additional information, visit the Peter I DXpedition Web site. www.peterone.com

Alabama Radio goes mobile

Charlie and Carols store on wheels will be coming to a hamfest near you. Stop in and prop your feet up, but don't forget to buy something.

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DUES PAID: ARC $_____ + FAMILY $_____ TOTAL $_____

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FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Letters for the Period Ending February 16, 2006

January 24, 2006
Atlanta CSO Construction
1270 W Marietta Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30318

Subject: *Warning Notice*--Unlicensed Radio Operation
Case #EB-2006-2834

Dear Sir:

Information before the Commission indicates that you have been operating radio equipment without a license on frequency 146.00 MHz. This frequency is referred to by your construction employees working on a tunnel project as "Channel 7."

Please be advised that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Section 301, and will subject the operator to monetary forfeiture (fine) or imprisonment. **Monetary forfeitures normally range from $7,500 to $10,000**.

You are requested to contact me at 717-338-2502 to discuss this matter. We will be able to assist you in obtaining a license in the appropriate radio service.

cc: FCC South Central Region

Robert C. Garcia

"Bob" - KD4JRT
"The Scopeman"
Tektronix Scope Repairs

845 Fairfield Dr. 770-977-5701
Marietta, Ga 30068 Esaronel@bellsouth.net

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC
PO BOX 720398
ATLANTA, GA 30358

MEETING NOTICE - THURSDAY MARCH 2, 2006

Join us for Lunch Bunch every Friday!

Location: Frankies
5600 Roswell Rd NE Atlanta, GA 30342-1150
(404) 843-9444
In The Prado
1130AM—1230PM